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## Night of Feb. 17, P.L.A.F.'s New Wave of Offensive:

**40 U.S. and Puppet Rear Bases, C.P.'s and Airfields Violently Attacked.**

★

**Westmoreland H.Q. and Puppet General Staff H.Q. Pounded.**

★

**Tan Son Nhat Airbase on Fire.**

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(See latest news on page 4)

# A STAGGERING BLOW AT THE AMERICAN IMPERIALISTS' AGGRESSIVE WILL

*NHAN DAN Editorial of February 16, 1968*

THE general offensive and simultaneous uprisings by the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam are unfolding as in a legend. Within a very short period of the initial stage, they have brought radical changes to the military and political situation in South Viet Nam, in a way totally favourable to our people and very unfavourable to the enemy. They have, as a consequence, brought radical changes to the views and thinking of a number of imperialist political circles about the situation of the American war of aggression.

Before the eyes of the whole world, the American war of aggression is not "progressing satisfactorily" and is showing no "encouraging signs," as boasted by Johnson and his gang; on the contrary, it is heading right for an abyss. During the past days, while great, all-sided, unprecedented victories have been won by the South Vietnamese armed forces and people, heavy, many-sided, unprecedented setbacks have been inflicted on the Americans and their valets.

THE most agonizing failure of the aggressors lies in the rapid collapse of the puppet army and administration. Within the first six days of the all-out offensive, tens of thousands of puppet troops were put out of action, many others paralysed and in the process of disintegration. The militia, "civil guard," and regional forces of the puppet army collapsed by big chunks. As for the puppet main force units, whole battalions were wiped out, whole regiments and even whole divisions were drained of their fighting strength. Not only was the puppet army violently shaken by the crushing blows of the revolutionary armed forces, it was disrupted from within by desertions, disbandment, anti-war movements, mutinies and rebellions, which it could do nothing to prevent. Like the puppet army, the puppet administration was breaking up. The puppet administrative machinery, from village and hamlet to district and province level, was swept away or knocked down and seriously damaged; crushing blows were dealt to the top-flight apparatus in Saigon. Many members of the U.S. ruling circles have reluctantly admitted that the Saigon puppet regime is only a nominal power, without any real substance. As the puppet army and administration is the political and military support of the American aggressors in their neo-colonialist war of aggression, its collapse means that the backbone of that war has been broken.

(Continued page 6)

## SOUTH VIETNAM

★ **HUE: All Enemy Counter-Attacks Fought Off with Heavy Adverse Losses: 850 G.I.'s and Puppet Troops Put out of Action.**

**TAN AN: H.Q. of Brigade 3, U.S. Infantry Division 9, Wiped Out: 500 Enemy Troops (Including 400 G.I.'s) Killed, Wounded or Captured.**

**SAIGON: Revolutionary Forces in Control of Many Town Districts, Heavily Damage a 10,000-Ton Freighter.**

★ **PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE SET UP IN THUA THIEN - HUE.**

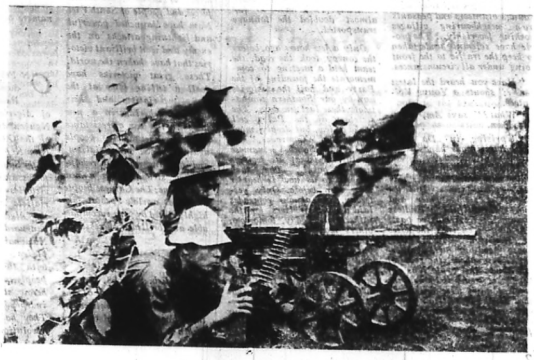
★ **PARTIAL BALANCE-SHEET OF GENERAL OFFENSIVE IN SAIGON - GIA DINH, HUE - THUA THIEN, MEKONG DELTA.**

★ **U.S. Air Force Savagely Bombs Populous Areas. B.52 Raids on the Periphery of Saigon.**

★

On Feb. 15, the P.L.A.F. celebrated their 7th unification anniversary

*Photo*: Attacking the enemy



NORTH VIET NAM — BIG REAR BASE OF THE SOUTH

# "WE SHALL GIVE OUR BLOOD AND SWEAT WITHOUT STINT"

The chain uprisings staged and victories recorded these last few days by the people and armed forces of South Viet Nam have generated a great wave of enthusiasm among the various strata of the population of North Viet Nam, which has given a new impetus to the emulation movement in production and combat for national salvation. Workers, peasants, intellectuals, men and women, young and old — everyone wants to show himself worthy of our heroic brothers and sisters of the South, to make an utmost contribution, with his blood and sweat, to victory over the American aggressors and their valets. In the following story, the author describes the hard struggle waged by lorry drivers of Quang Binh, a province close to the 17th parallel, bombarded night and day by American aircraft and warships. — *Ed.*

*DRIVING along this road of Quang Binh, which leads to the front, is virtually going up the line. Hundreds of delayed-action bombs are lying in the bush, very close to the roadway. Every ten minutes or so, one of them will explode. But joy is on every face: everyone feels elated by the inspiring news from the South.*

*Holding firmly the driving-wheel and scanning attentively the night through the windshield, Am, the driver, is urging us to tell him the latest news. We have boarded his lorry to get a first-hand experience of the activities of a work team which has just been commended for its achievements.*

*"This news gives me ever-renewed strength," says he.*

*A bomb explodes in front of us. Pouting contemptuously, he puts his head out of the window to get a better look at the road, and drives on.*

*Everything along the road looks the same as it does every day, or rather every night. Whitewashed stakes on either side to help drivers see their way in the dark, blackd-out lights at crossroads, heaps of earth and stone for filling bomb craters and repairing damaged bridges and roadways. Young Volunteers and peasants from neighbouring villages working feverishly... The people have solemnly undertaken to keep the traffic to the front going under all circumstances.*

*"Have you heard the latest news?" shouts a Young Volunteer.*

*"What?" says Am, slowing down.*

*"Uprising in Da Lat! Da Lat is in our hands!"*

*"Hurrah! Hurrah!"*

*We have travelled over this road several times. But tonight, it seems wider and more beautiful! Endless streams of lorries drive past. The hum of engines, the noise of discussions, songs, greetings, good-humoured banterings... rise above the roar of jets and the explosions of bombs. It seems as though the whole country were awake and that all the 17 million people of North Viet Nam were out on the roads "serving the front."*

*Beside us, is one of those lorry-drivers of Quang Binh, fearless fighters who have gone through a thousand days and nights under the bombs, which haven't spared a single stretch of this road. And yet, Am's team has fulfilled the norms assigned to it in the 1967 State plan twenty days ahead of schedule!*

*Let us make closer acquaintance with that team. Vuong, the secretary of the Party cell, took part, in 1952, in the liberation of the North-west, driving an oxcart loaded with ammunition. In 1953-54, during the Dien Bien Phu campaign, he was an engineer and specialized in the demolition of delayed-action bombs. Toan is also a veteran of Dien Bien Phu. Long has so far been wounded five times but has refused to leave his post. Am, our host, is not yet 20, is credited with 800 days of work under fierce bombings. One day, near S. Bridge, he got injured in three places. But he stayed on at the wheel and drove his car to safety, after taking in tow another one whose driver had been seriously wounded. Vuong, Toan, Long, Am and their comrades Tuyen, Meo, Quang, Viet Hung... do the driving at night and maintenance and repair work in the daytime. They sleep a bare three hours each day. They have so far almost doubled the tonnage transported.*

*Only a few hours ago, before the convoy took the road, the team held a meeting to commemorate the founding of the Party and hail the victories won by our Southern compatriots these last few days. The secretary of the Party cell spoke a few, but deeply moving, words. "Comrades," he said, "the South Vietnamese revolution is at a decisive turning-point. The task assigned to us now is heavier than ever before. Only yesterday, two of our comrades laid down their lives for the fatherland. Today, tomorrow, others may give theirs. Immense difficulties are ahead, but let us assure our brothers and sisters of the beloved South that we shall give our sweat and blood without stint, that nothing will stop us, that American bombs will not prevent us from fulfilling our sacred duty towards the Great Front."*

*The Whole World Is on Our Side*

# SHARING OUR JOY IN VICTORY, FRIENDS ALL OVER THE WORLD INCREASE THEIR SUPPORT TO VIET NAM

*ON Feb. 9, receiving Dang Quang Minh, Head of the Permanent Mission of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. in the U.S.S.R., L.I. Brejnev, Secretary General of the C.C. of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, warmly welcomed the fresh victories of the South Viet Nam N.F.L., the South Viet Nam people.* He stressed, "These victories are highly significant, not only militarily but also politically. The recent events show that the strength and prestige of the N.F.L. have been heightened on the basis of its Political Programme."

*He re-affirmed, "The heroic Vietnamese people who are defending a just cause, their freedom and independence, can rely on the fraternal assistance and support of the Soviet people. All anti-imperialist and peace-loving forces are on the side of the Vietnamese people."*

*ON Feb. 14, 1968 Lin Piao, Vice-Premier and Minister of National Defence of the People's Republic of China, sent Tran Nam Trung, Head of the Military Commission of the South Viet Nam N.F.L., a message of congratulation on the occasion of the 7th anniversary of the merging of the South Viet Nam Liberation Armed Forces (Feb. 15, 1961).*

*The message reads in part: "Recently with an impetus capable of removing mountains and filling oceans, and with the might of thunder, the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam have launched powerful and lightning attacks on the enemy and won brilliant victories that have shaken the world. These great victories have dealt a telling blow at the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys, ushering in a new phase in the war of resistance of the Vietnamese people against U.S. imperialism, and pushing up their revolutionary struggle into a new tidal wave. The Chinese people and the world's people are highly elated by your incomparable and brilliant successes."*

*ON Feb. 15, 1968, the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party issued a communique welcoming the splendid victories of the armed forces and people in both zones of Viet Nam. The communique wrote in part, "At a time when the Vietnamese people are fighting battles of paramount importance, at a time when the struggle for the liberation of South Viet Nam and the heroic resistance waged by the D.R.V.N. are going on with a particular mettle, once again the Cuban Communist Party, through the representatives of Viet Nam in Cuba, voices the unshakeable solidarity of the Cuban people with Viet Nam."*

*The communique said that Fidel Castro, First Secretary of the Cuban Communist Party, had stressed that the attacks on the U.S. major military bases and mass uprisings in most of South Viet Nam's towns and cities including Saigon, and the liberation of many villages, important towns and town districts, had filled the Cuban people and Communist Party with great joy.*

*IN an interview on Feb. 9 with Hoang Minh Hoa, Head of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. Permanent Mission in Czechoslovakia, Alexandre Dubcek, First Secretary of the C.C. of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, praised the new brilliant victories of the South Vietnamese people and reaffirmed the support and sympathy of the Czechoslovak Party and people to the just struggle of the South Vietnamese people*

*ON Feb. 8, Houari Boumedienne, President of the Revolutionary Council of Algeria, wrote to Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the C.C. of the South Viet Nam N.F.L., "On the occasion of the South Vietnamese armed forces and people's great victories over the U.S. imperialists and their puppets, the Algerian people and the vanguard Party of the National Liberation Front pledge themselves to unite with the South Viet Nam people and N.F.L. in their heroic struggle for national independence and sovereignty. They hail the setting up of revolutionary committees and alliances of national forces for independence and peace."*

*ON Feb. 10, receiving Le Quang Chanh, Head of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. Permanent Mission in Cairo, Ali Sabry, Vice-President of the U.A.R., and Secretary General of the Arab Socialist Alliance, said, "We warmly welcome the great political and military victories of the South Vietnamese people. We follow with keen interest your struggle and regard your victories as our own. They are an inspiration for our struggle because you and we are fighting the same imperialist foe. We will continue to support staunchly your struggle and entertain complete confidence in your final victory."*

*IN response to a call from the* National Committee of Action in Support of the Vietnamese People until Victory, *on Feb. 13, 1968 nearly 100,000 people in Paris, Marseilles, Lyon, Toulouse, Nice, Strasbourg, Pas de Calais... took to the streets to hail the victories of the Vietnamese people.*

*In Paris, 80,000 demonstrators marched from Place de la Republique to Place de la Bastille, displaying hundreds of flags of the N.F.L. and the D.R.V.N. and a great number of streamers reading "The South Viet Nam N.F.L. will win," "The U.S. must stop its aggression," "Viet Nam to the Vietnamese!"*

*The demonstration was led by* Waldeck Rochet, Louis Aragon, Jeannette Thorez Vermersch, Henri Martin, *president, vice-presidents and members of the National Committee of Action in Support of the Vietnamese People until Victory and representatives of many other French mass organizations.*

**TO THE READER**

*We are aware that there is much room for improvement in the wording of our paper. We apologize for this shortcoming and highly appreciate all your suggestions as they will help us to serve you more efficiently in future.*



FEB. 15: 7th UNIFICATION ANNIVERSARY OF SOUTH VIET NAM P.L.A.F.

# Congratulations from Gen. VO NGUYEN GIAP, Commander-in-Chief of Viet Nam People's Army

ON the occasion of the 7th anniversary of the unification of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces, General Vo Nguyen Giap sent a message of congratulation to the Command of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces.

The message reads in part as follows:

*"Growing up with the revolutionary tidal wave of the South Vietnamese people, fighting under the banner of the National Front for Liberation, and enjoying the wholehearted love and care of the people, the South Vietnamese people's Liberation Armed Forces have built up its forces during the fight and have now become a revolutionary army with a record of progress by leaps and bounds, continued victories, and ever-increasing strength.*

*Together with the entire people, this ever-victorious army is writing glorious pages in the history of the Vietnamese people, is defeating the 1,200,000-strong army of the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen. It is bringing its offensive spirit into full play, dashing forward on the impetus of its victories to score still greater achievements in its advance towards complete victory.*

*No matter how obstinate and frantic the U.S. imperialists may be, no matter how many more troops and war means they may send to South Viet Nam, they can in no way retrieve their critical situation and will certainly sustain an ignominious defeat."*

# SOUTH VIETNAMESE MASS ORGANIZATIONS SEND MESSAGES TO AMERICAN PEOPLE

*GIAI PHONG PRESS AGENCY* reported that after the general offensive and simultaneous uprisings of the South Vietnamese people in early Spring, many South Vietnamese mass organizations have sent to the American people letters calling on them, for the sake of justice and in the interests of both the American and the Vietnamese people, to demand that the U.S. government put an end to its war of aggression in Viet Nam.

Reverend Thich Thien Hao, Vice-President of the **Committee of Solidarity of the South Vietnamese People with the American People**, in his letter denouncing the U.S. aggression in South Viet Nam, wrote, "In order to wash out the stain on the Fatherland's honour and to punish the criminals, the South Vietnamese people, staunchly supported by the People's Liberation Armed Forces, are closing their ranks and resolutely struggling to attain their most legitimate goals — independence, sovereignty, freedom, democracy, peace, neutrality, food, clothing, land and a healthy life — and to demand that the U.S. government withdraw from South Viet Nam all U.S. and satellite troops and let the South Vietnamese people settle their own problems without foreign interference.

"We insistently call on you to act more energetically in the interests of both our peoples, of the life and happiness of our dear ones which are being impaired in the present war, for the sake of social justice and world peace. We call on you to demand that the U.S. government end at once its war of aggression against Viet Nam, stop sending American youths to this dirty war, and bring G.I.'s home so that the war may end soon to the benefit of both peoples."

In her letter to the American women, Mrs. Nguyen Thi Thanh, Secretary General of the **Liberation Women's Union**, wrote, "You who are women full of feeling like other women in the world, are certainly aware of the agony and aspirations of the women in South Viet Nam.

"In these last two decades, we have never enjoyed a minute of peace. Especially for the last thirteen years, the war of aggression waged by the U. S. government has been causing our people, including women, suffering and mourning never experienced by any other people so far. How many mothers and wives in South Viet Nam have seen their dear ones killed, or barbarously tortured! How many women have themselves suffered from humiliation and most excruciating pains!

"The most cherished and legitimate aspirations of the South Vietnamese people and women are withdrawal of U. S. troops, respect of South Viet Nam's national independence, overthrow of the quislings Thieu and Ky, democracy, peace, neutrality...

"The South Vietnamese people and women are well aware that the American people and women have never approved of the unjust war unleashed by the U. S. government against the South Vietnamese people, because not only does it bring sufferings to the South Vietnamese people but also it snatches husbands and sons from many American women.

"Under the present circumstances, we earnestly call on you to raise your voices loudly and to act vigorously for an early end to this dirty war and to the sufferings of both our peoples."

In his letter to the American youth, Le Thiet, President of the **Liberation Youth Union**, wrote, "The interests and legitimate aspirations of South Vietnamese youth have been trampled underfoot. Humiliation and hatred for the enemy have filled the hearts of our people and youth in South Viet Nam.

"More than ever the South Vietnamese youth realize that their only right path — the path chosen by all self-respecting people — is continued resistance to U.S. aggression for the country's freedom and peace. This is also the path guaranteeing the legitimate rights of the American people, and a decent future for the young generation in both our countries.

"The Vietnamese youth have been following with emotion and gratitude the many-sided and courageous struggle of U. S. progressive youths who oppose the U. S. government's unjust war in Viet Nam.

"Following the new developments in the South Vietnamese people's struggle we hope you would take more energetic measures to fight together with us for an end to the U.S. government's war of aggression in Viet Nam."

# PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE SET UP IN THUA THIEN - HUE

*GIAI PHONG Press Agency* announced that on Feb. 14, 1968 the Front of Alliance for National Independence, Democracy and Peace in Hue city convened an emergency national-salvation congress attended by representatives of various revolutionary forces, political organizations, religious communities and representatives of the Insurrection Committee of three Hue city districts and six Thua Thien rural districts.

The Congress issued a proclamation making it clear that over the past 13 years the South Viet Nam puppet administration in general and the puppet administration in Thua Thien - Hue in particular had been serving as an instrument of the U.S. imperialists' neo-colonialism, that it represented nobody and was actually the enemy of the local people. The Proclamation said:

"On January 31, 1968, in hours crucial for the destiny of the country as well as for their own destiny, the people of Thua Thien - Hue, together with the people throughout South Viet Nam, rose up in arms to smash the puppet administrative structure from the provincial level down to each village and hamlet, liberating all the rural areas and Hue city. The enemy has sustained a crushing defeat. A number of the puppet chieftains have either given themselves up or have been arrested by the revolutionary forces. Except for a few isolated localities and posts which are not yet captured by the revolution, the puppet administration has on the whole crumbled. People's Revolutionary Committees or Insurrection Committees have been set up in all districts, villages or town districts and have been assuming the leadership of the insurrection as well as running administrative affairs in the area.

"In such a situation, the Congress decided to set up the provisional administration of Thua Thien - Hue as a body which represents the will and aspirations of the people and sees to the enforcing of their right to be masters of their destiny."

On the tasks of the People's Revolutionary Committee, the Proclamation mentioned the following:

"— Strengthening the bloc of solidarity of the entire people, pushing forward the armed struggle, political struggle and the agitation work among the enemy ranks, resolutely defending and expanding the people's control of the region, protecting the lives and property of the people, suppressing the remnant reactionary forces which try to restore the puppet administration stooge of the U.S., leading the people in getting ready to defeat all counter-attacks of the enemy;

"— Leading the people in boosting production and practising thrift, building and expanding medical, cultural and education facilities, caring for the material and spiritual life of the people; on the basis of replenishing the people's force, actively mobilizing the people to contribute manpower and material resources to the resistance and take an active part in all activities in service of the resistance in keeping with the watchword: "All for the front, all for victory."

The Congress appointed the following personalities to the permanent organ of the People's Revolutionary Committee of Thua Thien - Hue:

Chairman: Mr. Le Van Hao, Doctor of Ethnology, professor of Hue and Saigon Universities;

Vice-Chairmen: Mme Nguyen Dinh Chi, ex-Director of the Dong Khanh Girl School in Hue, and Mr. Hoang Le, representative of the labouring people.

Members: Messrs Nguyen Thuc Tuan and Ton That Duong Tiem.

# First Division Mutineers Call on Mates to Turn Guns on U.S. and Thieu-Ky Clique

AWARE of the inevitable collapse of the U.S. aggressors and Thieu-Ky clique in face of the powerful onslaught of the South Viet Nam Liberation Armed Forces and people and responding to the N.F.L. Political Programme, many officers and soldiers in the puppet First Division have set up an organization of patriotic armymen called "Association of Break-Away Armymen of First Division from the Saigon Army."

On Feb. 7, 1968 this organization sent a message to officers and men in the First Army Corps (Central Trung Bo) calling on them to rise against the U.S. and Thieu-Ky clique.

The appeal voiced the high indignation of puppet troops against the U.S. and Thieu-Ky clique "who have dragged them into a criminal path, killed their compatriots and destroyed their native land." It condemned their savage criminal "bombing of our compatriots even on the very first day of *Tet* festival, trampling underfoot our long-standing national tradition."

The appeal said, "Thousands of officers and soldiers in the Second Tactical Area have crossed over to the side of the people, risen up and surrendered their posts to the revolutionary forces. They have set up an association of officers and men of the First Division up against the U.S. and Thieu-Ky clique, the members of which undertake to redeem their past faults and contribute to the liberation of the country."

The association called on officers and men in the Second Tactical Area:

— to abandon as soon as possible their profession as mercenaries, surrender their weapons and their posts to the revolutionary forces and return to their families;

— to rise up and turn their guns on the U.S. aggressors and their die-hard commanders and collectively rally the people;

— to establish contacts and co-ordinate their actions with the revolutionaries to fight the Americans, wipe out Saigon troops and liberate the country.

# PARTIAL BALANCE-SHEET OF GENERAL OFFENSIVE IN VARIOUS REGIONS OF SOUTH VIET NAM*

## SAIGON — GIA DINH :

*(Jan. 31 — Feb. 9, 1968)*

**• Important U.S. and Puppet Military and Political Organs Assaulted and Paralysed • Many Districts in Saigon Placed under P.L.A.F. Control • Over 10,000 Enemy Troops (Including 3,000 G.I.'s) Killed, Wounded or Captured • Puppet Officers, Soldiers and Civil Servants by the Thousands Crossed Over to the People's Side**

ON February 10, the P.L.A.F. Command of Saigon - Gia Dinh issued a communique on the victories scored from January 31 to February 9, 1968. The communique said :

Large numbers of people in the Saigon - Gia Dinh area rose up to smash the enemy's grip and regain the right to be masters of their native land. Never has there been in Saigon - Gia Dinh such all-sided, widespread, simultaneous and fierce attacks and uprisings as in recent days.

Right in the first minutes, the armed forces and people made deep thrusts into, and fiercely attacked, a series of key military and political organs at central level of the U.S. aggressors and their puppets and military bases of prime importance.

They attacked :

— the " Independence Palace " of the Thieu - Ky traitors ;

— the U.S. Embassy, which in fact was the stronghold of the U.S. " governor general " and nerve centre of the U.S. aggressors in South Viet Nam ;

— the Inter-Arms Headquarters, the highest command post of the puppet army ;

— the headquarters of the puppet Navy ;

— the Tan Son Nhat airbase, the U.S.-puppet biggest airfield in South Viet Nam ;

— the artillery site and motorized section at Co Loa and Phu Dong ;

— the largest logistical base of the puppet troops at Hanh Thong Tay ;

— the U.S. big supply base at Long Binh ;

— the Quang Trung military training centre of the puppet army ;

— the Saigon Radio Station, the psychowar mouthpiece of the U.S. and its puppets, which they destroyed.

In the following days, the fighters and people inside Saigon continually attacked the Paratroopers, Marines, Rangers and Police, heavily decimating the enemy's forces.

So far, the P.L.A.F., together with the insurgents and other patriotic forces, have seized control of the major parts of the heavily populated 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 4th districts, covering nearly half of Saigon city, and at the same time, pressed their attacks on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd districts. The people in various districts have continued to wipe out the most cruel agents of the enemy, set up self-management bodies of the people, organized armed forces, seen to their well-being and kept up attacks on the enemy.

In co-ordination with, and supporting, the people inside the city, the patriotic forces and people in the outlying areas also rose up and attacked the enemy without let-up. They :

— heavily shelled the big U.S. military bases at Lai Khe, Dong Du and Dau Tieng ;

— fiercely attacked the U.S. 2nd Operational Command, the Command of the puppet 3rd Army Corps, the big Bien Hoa airbase of the U.S. and its puppets, and the Command of the puppet 25th Division at Bau Trai ;

— attacked and seized control of most of the Bien Hoa and Binh Duong provincial capitals and destroyed the prisons there, releasing thousands of patriots detained by the enemy ;

— attacked and rose up in all districts and got control of the district capitals of Cu Chi, Ben Cat, Duc Hoa, Thu Duc and Tan Uyen and almost all the rural areas around the city ;

— continually attacked and overran, forced the enemy to surrender or withdraw from, dozens of posts in the outlying districts of the city.

The armed forces and people of Saigon-Gia Dinh also cut off and paralysed all the main roads and waterways leading to Saigon, seriously hampering enemy's rescue and supply efforts. They continually attacked the enemy and routed the enemy's crack units going to the rescue of the battered units, completely wiping out whole enemy battalions, killing or capturing thousands of enemy troops, and destroying hundreds of armoured vehicles. All enemy forces from the U.S. infantry and motorized units to the puppet Marines and paratroopers were badly trounced at Phu My, Thu Duc, An Nhon, Go Vap, Hoc Mon, etc.

During the first 10 days of attacks and uprising, the patriotic forces and people in Saigon - Gia Dinh area won tremendous and all-sided victories.

Our armed forces and people heavily decimated large enemy forces. According to first reports, they killed, wounded or captured more than 10,000 enemy troops including 3,000 G.I.'s. They completely wiped out, in terms of units, 5 enemy battalions. The fighting morale of the puppet troops is sinking low. Hundreds of thousands of them have deserted. They :

— scored direct hits at the key political and military organs of the U.S. and puppets, thus disrupting, upsetting and paralysing all their military command and administrative machine, not only in Saigon but also in South Viet Nam as a whole, and smashing by big chunks their grip in the cities and towns, provincial and district capitals and the urban areas in Saigon - Gia Dinh ;

— destroyed many enemy war means, destroyed on the ground or shot down nearly 200 aircraft, shattered more than 600 military vehicles including more than 200 armoured cars.

The revolutionary armed forces have made big leaps forward. The liberated areas have been expanded around the cities and even close to Saigon - Cho Lon. All the three kinds of armed forces (regular, regional and guerilla) have grown up stronger than ever before. Thousands of youths have joined the People's Liberation Armed Forces to fight the enemy and save the country. In all the newly liberated urban and rural areas, large numbers of workers, peasants, pupils and students have joined the home-guard, guerilla and militia teams, and, with the weapons captured from the enemy and any other weapons at their disposal, they have fought the enemy day and night, wiped out the traitors, maintained public security and order and defended the people and the revolutionary gains.

The Alliance of National Forces for Independence and Peace which came into being right in Saigon city has broadened and strengthened the people's ranks against U.S. aggression, for national salvation.

Tens of thousands of officers and men of the puppet army, policemen and personnel of the puppet administration have left the enemy ranks and crossed over to the people's side, thus aggravating the U.S. aggressors' isolation and weakness.

The victories won during the 10 days beginning January 31 by the Liberation Armed Forces and people in Saigon - Gia Dinh are of a very great significance, both military and political. The liberated areas have been extended almost to the gates of Saigon. The Liberation Armed Forces and people tightened the noose around them, pressured the enemy from all sides, and attacked them from all directions, thus pinning down the puppet army's general reserves and part of the U.S. mobile forces.

The people in many areas in Saigon-Gia Dinh, stifled by the ruthless rule of the U.S. puppets, have risen up to dislocate the huge machine of oppression comprising a multitude of policemen, spies, secret agents, etc. and assert their role as masters of their destiny.

These victories have exploded all the boasts and deceitful claims of the enemy about their "successes," and, like a whirlwind, have swept away the castle they have built with much effort —

*(Continued page 6)*

## HUE — THUA THIEN :

*(Jan. 31 — Feb. 9, 1968)*

**• Hue under Revolutionary Forces' Firm Control, Almost All Rural Areas Liberated • Puppet Administrative Apparatus Smashed at All Levels • Over 10,000 Enemy Troops (Including 1,800 G.I.'s Killed, Wounded or Captured**

ACCORDING to a communique of the Command of the People's Liberation Armed Forces in Thua Thien province and Hue city, from January 31 to February 9, the P.L.A.F. fought 175 battles in addition to hundreds of others fought by the regional forces, home-guard and guerilla. They overran, or forced the enemy to withdraw from, 53 positions, assaulted 2 prisons and liberated over 2,200 revolutionary cadres and others patriotic people detained by the enemy there.

According to initial statistics, over 10,000 enemy troops including 1,800 G.I.'s were put out of action. Enemy troops and administrative personnel captured alone numbered nearly 2,000 among them a whole U.S. platoon and a U.S. colonel, dozens of field and company officials of the puppet administration at provincial or district levels. Meanwhile many puppet administrative personnel, policemen, and men or officers of the puppet army reported to the revolutionary committee and handed in their arms. The armed forces and people of Thua Thien and Hue quickly wiped out the 7th Armoured Regiment, 2 combat police battalions, 1 motorized transport battalion, 1 sapper battalion and 2 infantry battalions of the puppet army together with 17 companies of U.S. and puppet troops. The 1st puppet Division took heavy beatings, its fighting power was crippled as its 1st and 3rd Brigades lost three-quarters of their effectives. A puppet paratroop brigade was put out of action.

169 puppet militia platoons and 18 "pacification" teams in Thua Thien province and Hue city were wiped out or completely disbanded.

The armed forces and people in the region shot down or destroyed on the ground 118 aircraft of various types, destroyed 250 military vehicles (including more than 60 tanks), 20 cannons of the 175mm, 155mm and 105mm calibres, and sank 10 war vessels and 3 combat launches. They seized 8 tanks and self-propelled cannons, 10 arms and food stores, over 2,000 firearms of various kinds (including hundreds of heavy machineguns) and hundreds of lorries.

Besides, 12 bridges were blown up. All the major bridges on the main highways from Hue to Quang Tri and Da Nang were wrecked, such as the Trang Tien, Gia Vien, An Hoa and An Cuu bridges, cutting off the main communication lines of the enemy.

After such a crippling blow, the enemy hurriedly scraped up a number of American and puppet units for counter-attacks in an attempt to regain control of Hue city. But the armed forces and people of the region, impelled forward by their victories, wiped out many more U.S. and puppet units, beat off all attacks by enemy rescuing forces and continued to hold firm control over the city.

In co-ordination with the Hue battlefront, the armed forces and people in other parts of Thua Thien province smashed the whole structure of the puppet administration in the countryside, liberating nearly all the rural areas, thus linking Hue city with the vast rear.

Synchronizing with the attacks of the People's Liberation Armed Forces, hundreds of thousands of people, like tidal waves, poured out into the streets to wipe out the cruel agents of the enemy, set up the revolutionary power, besieged enemy posts and called on soldiers of the puppet army to surrender their guns and return to the people's side.

After having joined the P.L.A.F. in wiping out the enemy, the townsfolks in many districts set up revolutionary committees. Women in Hue city have joined men in the fight for the control of the city. Having received guns from the revolutionary forces, youths, workers, students in the city have grouped themselves into home-guard teams and eagerly taken part in military training. Many Buddhist monks and nuns have also joined the revolutionary armed forces. Many doctors, nurses and other medical workers in the city have taken part in the treatment of wounded fighters. The labouring people including pedicab drivers have volunteered to transport the wounded and carry supplies to the city guards. Hundreds of officers and men of the puppet army awakened by the people's general offensive have crossed over to the revolutionary side.

*(Continued page 6)*

## CENTRAL NAM BO :

*(Jan. 30 — Feb. 4, 1968)*

**• Offensive and Uprising in 6 Provincial Capitals and 20 District Capitals • Puppet Army and Administration Shattered • Large Rural Areas and Tens of Thousands of People Liberated • 16,000 Enemy Troops Killed, Wounded or Captured**

ACCORDING to a communique of the Command of the P.L.A.F. in Central Nam Bo, preliminary reports show that from January 30 to February 4, the armed forces and people in Central Nam Bo attacked, wiped out and paralysed many military and administrative headquarters of the U.S.-puppets. They completely overran 6 military sector headquarters, 4 operational commands at sector level, many puppet administrative offices including the governors' offices and radio stations, and billets of American "advisors." They broke open 3 jails and liberated thousands of patriots detained by the enemy and destroyed dozens of reserve war materials stores including 3 dumps containing altogether over 3,000 firearms.

Still incomplete figures tell that the revolutionary forces put out of action over 16,000 enemy troops among them nearly 1,000 G.I.'s. Thousands of enemy troops were captured or surrendered, including many field and company officers. In terms of units, the patriotic forces knocked out or decimated 7 enemy battalions (one American), 3 armoured columns comprising 41 vehicles and 10 companies.

In addition, they sank or destroyed 14 vessels, blasted to pieces 115 military vehicles, and shot down 13 aircraft.

In My Tho province alone, nearly 5,000 enemy troops were put out of action, and in its capital, the puppet 7 th Division H.Q. was stormed and the central quarter captured by the revolutionary forces. Besides, 7 aircraft were shot down, 2 puppet main force battalions wiped out, 3 armoured columns comprising 41 vehicles destroyed, 1,300 enemy troops killed, or wounded including 250 G.I.'s, and 500 firearms seized, in this provincial capital.

In Ben Tre province, the armed forces and people intercepted and inflicted 450 casualties on one battalion and one company of American troops coming to the rescue of the puppet soldiers.

In the period under review, hundreds of thousands of people, with any weapons at their disposal and in co-ordination with patriotic soldiers of the puppet army, broke into, and seized hold of, enemy posts and administrative buildings, wiped out cruel enemy agents and rounded up the enemy remnants.

They also cut off over 20 important roads in various provinces and districts, overran, or forced the enemy to surrender, or withdraw from, 200 posts, swept the enemy out of hundreds of hamlets or villages, and liberated hundreds of thousands of people in the urban and rural areas previously controlled by the enemy.

In Ben Tre province, the guerillas and people besieged or levelled 15 enemy posts around the provincial capital. The people in Mo Cay district, by tracking them down or calling on them to surrender, disbanded the "civil guards" organization, seized hold of the district market-place, and besieged the enemy key organs at Thanh Phu and other townlets.

Guerillas and people in Cho Lach area forced the enemy in 12 posts to surrender, and put the Cai Mon market area under their control. In co-ordination with relatives of the puppet soldiers, women pressed the enemy in the Cai Son post to surrender and seized all their weapons.

Tens of thousands of officers and men of the 7th main forces Division, the regional "civil guards" and militia units and many personnel of the puppet administration from provincial down to village levels have been disorganized by big chunks. In the 7th Division in particular, besides nearly 1,000 men knocked out of steam were thousands of disbanded soldiers who mutinied, killed their cruel commanders, seized their posts, destroyed weapons, joined the revolutionary ranks, resisted orders to go up as reinforcements, and so on. Many battalions lost from 50 to 80 per cent of their men. The engineering battalion and the 1st Battalion of the 11th Regiment have each only 150 men left; at the puppet Marine battalions stationed at Cai Lay, 500 men left their ranks within only 3 days.

Responding to the national salvation appeal of the N.F.L., over 400 soldiers in 40 posts surrendered both their weapons and posts to the revolutionary forces. Many others asked permission to join the insurgent forces to contribute to the liberation of their native land.

*(Continued page 6)*

## WESTERN NAM BO :

*(Jan. 31 — Feb. 7, 1968)*

**• Vast Rural Areas Liberated • 6,200 G.I.'s and Puppet Troops Killed, Wounded or Captured • Over 25,000 Puppet Soldiers and Functionaries Left Enemy Ranks**

THE P.L.A.F. Command in Western Nam Bo has issued a communique on the victories from January 31 to February 7, 1968. The communique reads :

At 2 a.m. January 31, the patriotic forces and people in the 6 provinces of Western Nam Bo mounted simultaneous and violent attacks on the dens of the enemy in the capitals of Can Tho, Soc Trang, Tra Vinh, Vinh Long, Bac Lieu, Ca Mau and Rach Gia provinces, heavily damaging, paralysing or seizing control of various key organs of the U.S.-puppets, such as the headquarters of the 4th Army Corps, the 14th, 16th and 32nd puppet Regiments, and of many military sectors, city halls, residences of province governors, police stations, American billets, C.I.A. offices, etc. and wiping out an important part of enemy forces.

According to initial statistics, from January 31 to February 7, 1968, the patriotic armed forces and people in Western Nam Bo killed or captured more than 6,200 U.S. and puppet troops, disbanded over 25,000 puppet soldiers and officers and administrative employees.

In terms of units, they wiped out or heavily decimated 8 puppet regular battalions, wiped out or disorganized dozens of companies and thousands of puppet policemen. In Vinh Long province alone, all the 1,200 policemen deserted ; over 1,000 firearms of various kinds were captured.

The armed forces and people of Western Nam Bo also attacked 7 airfields, putting out of operation the ones at Lo To (Can Tho), Vinh Long, Tra Vinh and Moi (Ca Mau), destroying on the ground or shooting down more than 100 aircraft of various types. Besides, they set ablaze or damaged hundreds of military vehicles including over 40 M.113 and M.118 armoured cars, sank dozens of war vessels, seized control of 2 U.S. combat launch bases in Vinh Long and Tra Vinh, occupied or burnt down many storages, and set free more than 2,000 patriots detained by the enemy.

Hundreds of thousands of people in the cities and provincial capitals rose up to punish cruel enemy agents and break the enemy's grip. They set up revolutionary power, organized guerilla and home-guard units and, side by side with the P.L.A.F., fought off the enemy's counter-attacks. The patriotic forces and people in Can Tho alone wiped out a puppet regular battalion, and beat off dozens of enemy counter-attacks on February 2, 3 and 4. Those in Vinh Long not only defeated all the counter-attacks by puppet troops, but also heavily trounced right after its landing one U.S. battalion helilifted in to take pressure off the provincial capital.

Up to Feb. 7, the armed forces and people of Western Nam Bo have gained control of the major part of Can Tho city, the capital of Vinh Long, Tra Vinh, Soc Trang and Bac Lieu, and parts of the capitals of Ca Mau and Rach Gia.

While the attacks and uprising in the provincial capitals were going on, the P.L.A.F. co-ordiated their action with the population in the townships and those rural areas still under enemy rule, attacking and completely controlling Soc Xoai town, and parts of 33 sub-sectors and district towns, overrunning, or forcing the enemy to withdraw from, more than 200 posts, liberating many rural areas around the capitals of Can Tho, Vinh Long and Tra Vinh, destroying almost all the ruling apparatus of the enemy in various hamlets, villages, streets and quarters, and seizing control of hundreds of hamlets.

Hundreds of thousands of people gathered to cut off hundreds of kilometres of Highways 4, 7 and 40 and the road linking Vinh Long and Sa Dec, taking a bridge north of My Thuan, sealing off all the sectors, sub-sectors and positions of the enemy, upsetting their command system, and blocking their traffic. Hundreds of U.S. "advisers" in sectors and sub-sectors fled in panic.

In face of the sweeping attacks of the P.L.A.F. and the high-mettled masses, the puppet army and administration in this region are affected with panic and are disintegrating in big chunks.

Many provincial governors and district heads have fled away. Many enemy battalions and companies have refused to go on rescue missions. Thousands of infantry and armoured troops, policemen, "civil guards" and militiamen have turned against cruel agents of the enemy, going over to the revolution, bringing along their weapons, and offering to fight side by side with the P.L.A.F. Puppet troops in more than 20 posts have surrendered themselves and handed in more than 300 guns. Tens of thousands of puppet armymen have broken away from the Thieu-Ky regime and crossed over to the people.

*(Continued page 6)*

## LATEST NEWS

**ACCORDING to initial reports, on the night of Feb 17, the P.L.A.F. again simultaneously attacked over 40 positions and important logistic bases of the enemy, from the northern provinces to the jungles of the Western High Plateaux and the Mekong Delta in the south.**

**Among these targets of P.L.A.F. attacks are Tan Son Nhat, a major U.S. airbase, the H.Q. of Westmoreland, the puppet General Staff in Saigon city, the U.S. big navy and supply base at Nha Be, the C.P. of the 25th Infantry Division at Cu Chi, the airfield of Kontum provincial capital... Violent fighting again took place in the provincial capital of Ban Tre, Phan Thiet, etc...**

**The enemy admitted heavy losses. A large number of aircraft have been destroyed at Tan Son Nhat airbase.**

* See the general map of South Viet Nam on page 8.

# PARTIAL BALANCE-SHEET

## Saigon—Gia Dinh

(Continued from page 4)

the self-styled "constitutional government" comprising a handful of U.S.-paid thugs despised by the entire people.

The so-called "Republican Army" is disintegrating and collapsing critically. The enemy's "rural pacification program" has completely gone bankrupt. The U.S. aggressors have not only fully shown their aggressive nature, they have proved completely powerless in face of the imminent doom of the puppet army and administration.

With these victories, the Liberation Armed Forces and people in Saigon / Gia Dinh have made an active contribution to the common victories of the armed forces and people throughout South Viet Nam, creating a very firm basis and especially favourable conditions for complete victory.

## Hue – Thua Thien

(Continued from page 5)

Meanwhile, hundreds of thousands of peasants rose up to wipe out the cruel agents of the enemy, shattered the puppet administrative machine, rounded up the enemy "militia" and forced them to abandon their posts or to hand in their arms.

People's power has been established everywhere. Guerilla groups have been quickly formed and armed to defend the revolutionary power and their native land. Thousands of youths have enthusiastically joined the People's Liberation Armed Forces. In their very first battles many of them have won the titles of "Outstanding Fighters" or "Determined-to-Win Fighters."

## Central Nam Bo

(Continued from page 5)

Besides cutting off and paralysing 20 important highways linking various districts and provinces, the revolutionary armed forces and people in their day-and-night attacks chopped up Highways 4 and 24, the Cao Lanh-An Hoa Highway, Highway 6 between Ben Tre and My Tho and Highway 5 between Go Cong and Saigon.

Tens of thousands of people razed to the ground over 40 posts along Highway 4, cut it at over 100 places, shattered hundreds of "strategic hamlets" and seized round-the-clock control of more than 70 kilometres of this highway.

Apart from attacking the enemy, the people of various strata have also contributed manpower and material resources to the front. Hundreds of thousands of young men and women and other people have joined brigades of young volunteers and front supply carriers. Within only a few days, 3,000 youths have enrolled in the Liberation Armed Forces or guerilla teams.

## Western Nam Bo

(Continued from page 5)

The officers and men of the 2nd and 3rd motorized columns in Can Tho province mutinied and crossed over to the revolution after seizing a number of M.113 armoured cars, destroying 3 posts, and wiping out a guard platoon.

Those of the 80th Company killed their commanding captain before joining the people's ranks. Puppet soldiers in Tan Hoa (Vinh Long province) handed in 80 guns at a time.

# U.S.A.F. Savagely Bombs Populous Areas in South Viet Nam

# NEW CRIMES OF U.S AGGRESSORS

### MANY URBAN CENTRES BOMBED TO HEAPS OF RUBBLE

SOUNDLY beaten by the P.L.A.F. and the revolutionary armed forces in their powerful attacks on the South Viet Nam urban centres from last Jan. 30, U.S. and puppet troops have been resorting to frantic reprisals. They have been brutally terrorizing patriots and the civilian population. Particularly serious is U.S. Air Force barbarous bombings of many towns and cities, including Saigon and Hue. The most devastating and wanton raids, intended to strike terror into the hearts of the people and of those who rose up against the aggressors and their valets, took place in 12 large cities and provincial capitals: Hue, Da Nang, Qui Nhon, Nha Trang, Ban Me Thuot, Da Lat, Saigon, Can Tho, My Tho, Ben Tre, Vinh Long and Ca Mau. Western sources confirm that several among these towns such as Hue, Ben Tre, My Tho and Ban Me Thuot, have been half-destroyed. In Hue, in particular, the Americans even used tear and emetic gases, napalm and phosphorus bombs; they also bombarded it with artillery from war-ships operating off the coast, thus making havoc of many famous cultural works of this ancient city. Meanwhile, B.52's struck at the outskirts of Saigon *(The Voice of America*, Feb. 15). In the provincial capitals of My Tho, Ben Tre and Vinh Long mass massacres were carried out. According to *Giai Phong Press Agency*, there have been cases of murdering of 1,000 and of 2,000 people at a time at My Tho. At Ben Tre American bombings devastated two-thirds of the Cao Dai temple area, killing and injuring many believers. On the other hand, parallel to the forced resettlement of the population, wanton bombing and strafing has rendered homeless hundreds of thousands of townsfolk.

### A DETAILED ADMISSION

WHILE in Ben Tre *AP* correspondent Peter Arnett wrote the following:

It became necessary to destroy the town to save it, a U.S. Major says. The destruction of this provincial capital was drawn out over 50 hours, Ben Tre was one of the 35 population centres attacked by communist forces in the upsurge of fighting last week. U.S. advisers said Wednesday that American fire-power probably contributed largely to the deaths of at least 500 civilians and possibly 1,000. We will never know for sure, said Lieutenant-Colonel James Dare, commander of U.S. advisory team 93. Many families are buried permanently under the rubble.

Allies' fire-power included 500-pound bombs, napalm, rockets, various types of anti-personnel bombs and 105mm and 155mm artillery.

Two fighter-bombers splashed napalm on a 3,000-yard long riverbank opposite the U.S. military compound and covered with thatch-roof homes. The flimsy structures were reduced to ashes.

Armed helicopters made dozens of passes at the rambling market-place in the center of the city, smashing its walls and leaving the roof a mass of twisted steel girders.

### HE WHO SOWS THE WIND SHALL REAP THE WHIRLWIND

FOLLOWING the odious crimes committed by the U.S. aggressors against South Viet Nam's cities, on Feb. 5, 1968, the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam issued a statement calling "on the governments and people of the other socialist and peace-loving countries, democratic organizations and men of conscience in the world to severely condemn the U.S. aggressors and the Thieu-Ky clique of henchmen and to demand that they stop all criminal acts against the South Vietnamese people."

The Foreign Ministries of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and of the German Democratic Republic, as well as several international organizations have also raised their voice in protest against the U.S. crimes.

By their frenzied terror and repression, the U.S. aggressors aim at engendering confusion and wavering among our southern compatriots. Yet, the more sufferings they cause, the bitterer the hatred of our armed forces and people will grow. He who sows the wind shall reap the whirlwind. The revolutionary tide in the South will surely sweep away the U.S. aggressors and their valets, guilty of genocide in Viet Nam.

## B. 52 RAIDS ON SAIGON PERIPHERY

**ACCORDING to Western agencies, on Feb. 13, B.52 strategic bombers of the U.S.A.F. carried out saturation bombing on the very periphery of Saigon. Their targets were only a dozen kilometres from the centre of this city with a population of 2 million. More than one hundred civilians were reported killed.**

# A Staggering Blow...

(Continued from page 1)

The second major setback admitted by the American aggressors is the abysmal failure of their "rural pacification" plan. The whole of that big plan, born at the Honolulu conference, financed by the United States to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars each year, carried out over the past few years by hundreds of thousands of puppet and American at bloody costs with the aim of "proving" that their war of aggression was being won, has suddenly crashed to the ground, has even, in the words of the Western press, "dropped to below zero." Their big capital of nearly 50,000 "pacification cadres" has been consumed to the last man in the sky-high flames kindled by our compatriots. Not only have the armed forces and people of the South made havoc of the repressive machinery of the enemy in the rural areas, they have also knocked down big chunks of it in the towns and cities, expanded the liberated areas in the countryside, and become masters of sector after sector of the cities. Thus, not only have the Americans and their puppets failed to "pacify" the rural areas, they have also lost control over the cities.

The third important U.S. unsuccess is the sound beating received by its military strength. Not only have tens of thousands of troops including many motorized and mobile battalions been wiped out, but also an unprecedented amount of war materials has been lost: more than 1,500 aircraft, 4,000 military vehicles, millions of tons of ammunition, fuel and other army wares. South Viet Nam armed forces and people's sledge-hammer punches have been coupled with devastating blows at U.S. arsenals.

Another great setback suffered by the Americans is their inability to achieve a whole series of their other military and political objectives. Their "two-pronged" plan has proved a complete fiasco. Not only have they failed to "search and destroy" the main force of the Liberation troops, drive these into areas of little importance, or force these to disperse and scatter, as they had hoped, but the first days of the general offensive have supplied ample evidence that the Liberation troops constitute an invincible, never-victorious force. The People's Liberation Armed Forces are battering the puppet army and stretching the American troops thin on all battlefields, in order to wipe them out. The enemy has failed to tear to shreds the liberated areas and expand the regions under his control; on the contrary, as a result of the general offensive and simultaneous uprisings, our people's liberated areas have expanded more than ever and their control established over cities. The twofold pressure, political and military, exerted by the Americans and their puppets in the hope of forcing our people to accept such terms for an end to the war as favourable to them, has vanished into thin air. At present, none other than the U.S. ruling circles themselves have been forced to recognize that the U.S. not only will "not win" but even faces "possible defeat."

THE setback suffered by the Americans over the past few days bears a strategic significance. What Western public opinion has been calling "a big stepback in the American war" is precisely that very strategic one. Within a period of only a few days, the balance of forces, both political and military, has changed, and as a result, the strength of the South Vietnamese people and armed forces has outgrown that of the enemy. The seeming power of the Americans and their puppets has collapsed. The prestige of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, of the patriotic and revolutionary forces, is shining through the five continents. The revolution in the South has made a great leap forward. A surprise strategic blow has been dealt to the aggressors. All their blustering and false optimism has been punctured by hard facts. Johnson admits that he has committed "serious errors in Viet Nam" (*Observer*, Feb. 4, 1968). Westmoreland, who only recently boasted, on the strength of his illusory "four-stage plan," that he would achieve victory and begin withdrawing American troops in 1968, now bitterly recognizes that "the war in Viet Nam will last a whole generation." (*AFP*, Feb. 5). A wave of criticism in American public opinion, coming even from influential people in American ruling circles, is assaulting Johnson. Pressure for the dismissal of Westmoreland is growing.

The aggressive will of Johnson and his gang has been dealt a staggering blow. Although the American warmongers try hard to look unruffled, they cannot hide their pessimism and disappointment. And yet, they persist in their endeavour. Their reaction to the situation betrays both despair and madness. With a view to influencing public opinion, they resort to worn-out psy-war tricks, put forth shameless lies purporting to prove that the South Vietnamese armed forces and people have "fallen short of the objectives of the general offensive" and that, although they — the U.S. aggressors—have indeed suffered a setback, it is not a serious one, or is only a political, not a military one, and so on, and so forth. In combat, while unable to cope with the fierce assaults launched everywhere by the People's Liberation Armed Forces, they have sent reinforcements, tanks and artillery into the town to carry out terror against the people. They have ordered savage air raids on the cities and used poison gas in dastardly reprisals against the rising masses. They have also scraped up over ten thousand troops and sent them to South Viet Nam in the hope of staving off their complete ruin.

THE struggle waged by our armed forces people to crush the aggressive will of the American imperialists is still going on. On the road to final victory, our people will have to overcome still more difficulties and hardships. The successes recorded by the people and armed forces of the South are very great and fundamental ones; they have created favourable conditions for our vigorous advance towards total victory. In the impetus of their successes, launching ceaseless assaults and staging continual uprisings, treading on the enemy in their advance, the people and armed forces of the South will certainly achieve even bigger, more important victories.



# P.L.A.F. AND REVOLUTIONARY FORCES KEEP ATTACKING AND INFLICTING HEAVY LOSSES ON ENEMY

IN the last three weeks, the South Vietnamese armed forces and people have been pushing on their general offensive and uprisings.

According to *Reuter*, on Feb. 15, the U.S. Marines "suffered heavy casualties." A battalion of leathernecks supported by amphibious cars sustained serious losses in an unsuccessful attack against **Hue**.

The fighting continues in major cities like Saigon, Hue. In Hue, on Feb. 15, the revolutionary forces still controlled the Citadel. The South Viet Nam N.F.L. flag still fluttered on top of the Hue flagpole.

Many U.S. Marine units tried to cross the Perfume River in an attempt to reoccupy the northern part of the city, but they met with a fierce opposition, and took heavy casualties.

They went to the length of using tear gas, emetic gas, napalm, and even bombing the Citadel together with the Imperial Palace, causing the destruction of many valuable historic monuments and the death of many citizens.

*Giai Phong Press Agency* said that on Feb. 14, the U.S. puppets hurled 10 columns into a counter-attack against Hue. However they were defeated: 400 enemy troops, including 200 G.I.'s, were knocked out.

Meanwhile, American B-52 strategic bombers raided many areas only 17km from **Saigon**.

The shooting still goes on at the Phu Tho race-course, the Tan Son Nhat airfield and many places around Saigon.

*Giai Phong Press Agency* said that in the night of Feb. 7, the revolutionary forces punished many cruel policemen roaming in the streets and destroyed many puppet special forces infiltrating in **Cho Lon**. They inflicted serious damage upon an American military convoy, attacked two police stations in Districts 5 and 6, and a radar centre south of the city. A jeep on Tran Hoang Quan street was destroyed and the Americans onboard captured.

The U.S. air base at **Bien Hoa** near Saigon was stormed by the Liberation forces twice in the nights of Feb. 10 and 12. Many planes and war means were destroyed, many G.I.'s killed and wounded.

On Feb. 10 the P.L.A.F. attacked and put under their control many important areas of Tan An provincial capital. About 40km southwest of Saigon, they completely wiped out the 3rd Brigade of the U.S. 9th Infantry Division, one U.S. artillery company, destroyed and razed to the ground 12 posts, put out of action over 600 enemy troops, among them 400 G.I.'s. Besides they also destroyed ten 105mm and 155mm guns, 10 armoured cars, 1 radar station, a whole signal centre, burnt down 4 ammunition and petrol dumps, many puppet military and administrative offices and many war equipment storages of the enemy.

In the nights of Feb. 11 and 12, the Liberation fighters shelled a U.S. heliport 6km west of **Can Tho** town, blasting many copters. Prior to this, in the night of February 7, the U.S. **Chu Lai** air base had been violently pounded.

On Feb. 7, 8 and 9, the **Quang Nam** armed forces and people repeatedly attacked the enemy 4km northwest of Vinh Dien, causing 80 killed and wounded among the G.I.'s. They also stormed an enemy position 8km south of Da Nang: American troops sent on a rescue mission fell into an ambush, losing 100 dead or wounded and 2 captured. A U.S. company from the 196th Light Infantry Brigade based in Duy Xuyen was attacked: the toll was 5 killed or wounded.

On **Highway 9** and at **Khe Sanh**, more than 10,000 G.I.'s were pinned down. They felt very uncomfortable after the fall of Lang Vay special forces camp. Bombing by B.52's and other planes of nearby areas did not prevent poundings of these positions by the P.L.A.F. In the night of Feb. 10 and on Feb. 12, both Khe Sanh and **Con Tien** were heavily shelled and suffered considerable losses.

*Giai Phong Press Agency* reported that on Feb. 14 alone, the People's Liberation Armed Forces shot down 10 enemy aircraft at **Ta Con** where are gathered American Marines. Earlier, on Feb. 7, the P.L.A.F. killed or wounded nearly 800 enemy troops, captured in Lang Vei and Ta Con areas 160 U.S. and puppet troops including an American lieutenant-colonel. Besides, the P.L.A.F. knocked down or destroyed 20 aircraft, seized 700 guns of various types, and liberated 2,000 people from the enemy's grip.

All told, in the period between Feb. 7 and 10, the armed forces and people in **Quang Tri** put out of action 4,850 enemy troops including 2,900 G.I.'s, brought down, destroyed or damaged 66 aircraft of different types (64 in Khe Sanh alone), destroyed over 100 armoured cars and military vehicles, sank or set ablaze 10 landing boats, and freed from the enemy's control 10,000 inhabitants.

At **Tay Ninh** where Westmoreland had suffered serious setbacks in his second dry-season counter-offensive, on Feb. 10 the Liberation forces attacked an enemy military convoy, destroying 10 vehicles, killing or wounding 100 men. In the night of Feb. 9, attacks were launched against 5 enemy positions in the city, killing or wounding 209 troops, blasting 3 planes, many barracks, an ordnance piece, and burning a gasoline depot of more than 10,000 litres. The enemy in a nearby post, seized by panic, took to flight.

# CAPTURED AMERICAN PILOTS HANDED OVER IN HANOI

THE Viet Nam Peace Committee on Feb. 16 handed over to the representatives of the American National Mobilisation Committee against the Viet Nam War three captured American pilots whose release had been decided by the General Political Department of the Viet Nam People's Army.

They are:

1. **David Paul Matheny**, U.S.N. Ensign, service number 710009, attached to VF-111, CVW-16 on board the U.S.S. *Oriskany* of the Seventh Fleet, piloting an F8C, captured on October 5, 1967 in Ninh Binh.

2. **John David Black**, U.S.A.F. Captain, service number FR 55413, attached to the 555th Tactical Fighter Squadron, 8th Tactical Fighter Wing of Ubon U.S. airbase (Thailand), piloting an F4D, captured on October 27, 1967 in Hanoi.

3. **Morris Miller Overly**, U.S.A.F. Major, service number FR 45067, attached to the 13th Tactical Bomb Squadron at Phan Rang airbase, piloting a B-57, captured on September 11, 1967 in Quang Binh.

Handing over the released airmen to the Reverend Daniel Berrigan and Professor Howard Zinn representing the American Committee, Nguyen Xuan Oanh, Secretary of the Viet Nam Peace Committee, said that this act is vivid proof of the lenient and humanitarian policy of the Government of the D.R.V.N. despite the fact that the U.S. government is continuing its aggressive war in South Viet Nam and intensifying its bombing of the D.R.V.N.

He emphasized: "We demand that the U.S. authorities must not compel these airmen to return to Viet Nam to serve the U.S. aggressive war, must not take any acts of coercion or persecution against them and must ensure their early return to their families."

"On this occasion," Xuan Oanh went on, "we ask our friends who represent the movement of the American people against the U.S. war in Viet Nam to tell the American people, the students, intellectuals, the Black people, religious and cultural leaders, artists and the working people of America, that the Vietnamese people ardently cherish peace but are resolved to fight against the aggressive war conducted by the U.S. government, in order to defend their independence and freedom. We also ask you to convey our thanks to the progressive people in the United States who, in the interests of the Vietnamese and American peoples, are demanding that the U.S. government end its aggressive war in South Viet Nam and end the bombing of the D.R.V.N. We also ask you to convey our wishes for still greater successes to the movement of the American people against the U.S. war in Viet Nam."

*The three captured pilots (seated) being handed over to the representatives of the American National Mobilisation Committee against the Viet Nam War*

Speaking on the occasion, Reverend Berrigan expressed his deep gratitude to President Ho Chi Minh, the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the Viet Nam Peace Committee and the heroic Vietnamese people for their magnanimous gesture in setting free the three captured American pilots.

He added: "We have seen irrefutable evidence of the outrageous destruction caused by the American airmen. We know there is outright has spared neither women nor children, schools, hospitals nor churches. But your gesture subjects their acts to a larger judgement — to that of history and of all humanity. So their release, so profoundly true to Vietnamese traditions, lays on the warmakers an even heavier burden as the gaze of mankind bears witness."

David Paul Matheny, one of the three released airmen, said he was given adequate clothing and provided his basic needs during his detention. Matheny said: "We are very, very happy to be returning to our country and to our families. We wish to express our gratitude to the people of Viet Nam and the Government's lenient policy to us and to our captured American pilots."

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